

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10141 161200Z

53

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /054 W

----- 128542

O 261115Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3924

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10141

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, IR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: IRN AIR DISCOUNT FARE

REF: TEHRAN 9767

1. IN MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER MORNING OF OCTOBER 16 AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WE SEEM TO BE ON A CONFRONTATION COURSE IN THE MATTER OF THE IRAN AIR DISCOUNT FARE CONTROVERSY WHICH WOULD BENEFIT NEITHER COUNTRY. WE HOPE THAT WE CAN ENTER INTO A CONSTRUCTIVE NEGOTIATION ON THIS MATTER SOON BUT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION WILL REQUIRE FLEXIBILITY. PM AGREED THAT WE SHOULD AVOID CONFRONTATION IF AT ALL POSSIBLE AND WAS OBVIOUSLY AWARE OF CONVERSATIONS AMBASSADOR HAD WITH ANSARY OCTOBER 5(REFTEL). HE SAID THAT HE HAS PUT ANSARY IN CHARGE OF THIS MATTER AND THAT ANY TIME WE ARE READY TO NEGOTIATE IRAN IS. AS NOTED REFTEL, WE BELIEVE WE NOW HAVE THIS ISSUE OUT OF THE IRAN AIR-DGCA CIRCUIT AND UP FRONT AT THE CABINET LEVEL. WE URGE THEREFORE THAT WE MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM BY ABJURING ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT PREJUDICE THE NEGOTIATIONG PROCESS AND PROMPTLY SET A TIME AND PLACE FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ON THE SOMEWHAT RELATED ISSUE OF NO OBJECTINS FEES, THE PM SAID THAT HE DID NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM BUT IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT THE GOI WAS SIMPLY TAKING
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 10141 161200Z

MONEY OUT OF ONE POCKET AND PUTTING IT INTO ANOTHER

BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT CHARTER AIRLINES SIMPLY TACKED ON
THE NO OBJECTION FEE TO THEIR OVERALL BILL. HE HAS
ASKED ANSARY TO GET TOGETHER WITH THE DGCA, GENERAL
KHADEMI OF IRAN AIR, GENERAL TOUFANIAN, AND ANY OTHER
APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS TO SORT THIS OUT AMONGST
THEMSELVES. HOPEFULLY, THE ANSARY COMMITTEE WILL REACH
THE SAME CONCLUSION TH PM SEEMS TO HAVE REACHED AND WE WILL
GET A LCEAR CUT POLICY DECISION WHICH WILL ELIMINATE THE
NEED TO CONSTANTLY ASK FOR EXCEPTIONS ON A CASE BY CASE
BASIS AS HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE IN THE PAST.
HELMS

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NNN

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